

EDUCATIONAL.

THE COLLEGES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF RICHMOND.

What is Being Done in Literary, Scientific, Medical, Theological, and Primary Education.

RICHMOND COLLEGE.

The record of the college shows progress in every department of its institution. The number of professors has been increased by the addition of one regular assistant. Eminent lecturers have been employed on special courses. The James Thomas lecture ship was successfully inaugurated in April by a course of lectures on Astronomy by Professor Young.

The number of students was 130, coming from fifteen states and countries. Of these there studied Latin, 114; Mathematics, 112; Greek, 79; English, 76; Modern Languages, 86; Physics, 32; Philosophy, 29; Chemistry, 26; Botany, 18; Zoology, 10; Civil Engineering, 10; Architecture, 10; and three Masters of Arts.

Ninety-two per cent. of the resident students and 80 per cent. of the entire body of students were members of the Young Men's Christian Association. The average age of the students was 18 years, coming to several denominations studied with a view to the great military. The usual record of "orderly conduct and gentlemanly bearing," as well as studious habits, suffered no abatement. The very high standard in all the schools of the college both for entrance and graduation was maintained.

The improvements by special appropriation greatly enlarged the facilities for teaching physical science. The lecture, apparatus, and laboratory rooms opened in December last, nicely fitted up and supplied with every convenience for teaching and experimenting, secure a firm foundation for technological training and greatly promote the thoroughness of our investigations.

The opening of the gymnasium, whose construction began in July, 1887, marked the beginning of the year. A regular system of physical culture under proper instruction is thus assured.

A beautiful dining hall for the college club was opened and hot and cold baths inaugurated.

Thirty thousand dollars in cash was collected during 1888, making twenty-five thousand dollars in the different departments, the regular endowment, library, and scholarship fund receiving the largest part. The library is independent of any charge upon the other funds of the college, and grows in capacity and usefulness. Valuable publications in rare and valuable books were added by gift, among them those of Drs. J. B. Jeter and John A. Bradys. Accessions to the museum were gratifying.

Seven scholarships and donations were made during 1888, making twenty-five thousand dollars available. These are given to the needy young men who come well prepared.

Taken altogether the past twelve months have been steady.

President, Hon. D. D. Cunliffe, LL. D.; Treasurer, and W. H. Cunliffe, LL. D.

THE VIRGINIA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

INSTITUTE HALL, 28 NORTH NINTH STREET.

Its objects are the promotion and encouragement of manufacturers, the mechanic and useful arts, and the mental and social improvement of the industrial classes.

Officers: George A. Alarie, president; J. J. Monroe, vice-president; James A. Clark, treasurer; Thomas J. Elliott, secretary.

The Night School of Technology—C. P. E. Burgwyn, principal—during the session of 1888-'89 matriculated 217 scholars.

THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

The Richmond Telephone Exchange has continued to grow in size and popularity, and is now a very important factor in the business and financial prosperity of the city. Its value is a time-saver in beyond computation, and were the valuable and which it renders to the transaction of daily commercial and manufacturing business to be suddenly withdrawn business would be paralyzed.

Some idea may be gained of the size and usefulness of the exchange from the average number of recorded switch-board connections: Average daily connections, 15,000; average weekly connections, 90,000; average monthly connections, 300,000.

During the month of October, the above averages were largely exceeded, the actual number of connections record being 376,000, an average of nearly 30,000 connections for each of the regular day operators.

On several occasions a single operator has recorded 480 connections at once. The highest daily and monthly numbers, which would make an aggregate of 3,800 connections recorded by the entire force of operators during that period. The above figures represent approximately the number of connections throughout the Exchange telephones during the various periods mentioned, and of the Telephone Exchange service. They approximate to the subscriber who grumbles because he cannot secure immediate connection with another subscriber in the city besides himself who occasionally utilizes their telephone.

The number of connections are made between 9 A. M. and 12 M., and the busiest hour of the day is from 10:30 to 11:30 A. M.

During the last just closed the number of connections has increased to about 350—a gain of nearly 100.

Within the last twelve months many improvements have been made in the exchange plant and the central-office appliances.

The inference with the service due to the telephone from the electric-light currents, which at the beginning of the year almost entirely prevented the use at night of the telephones in the section of the city north of Main street and west of Ninth street, has been entirely obviated by the installation of a direct current system by Superintendent McElroy, and the subscribers located in that section now enjoy perfect immunity from the ear-splitting and voice-drowning noise with which they were wont to be grieved every time they attempted to use the telephone after the electric lights were abjured.

Attempts are being made to apply Superintendent McCleary's device to the section of the city north of Main street and east of Ninth street. The subscribers in which section, especially upon the route traversed by the electric cars, are now greatly relieved by the new system.

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The officers of the club for this year are: President, F. S. Myers, vice-president; William Heiter, treasurer; Mrs. May, secretary; who, together with the following directors, compose the Board of Managers: Sol. Syle, Elias Hart Jacob Eller, M. Rosenthal, L. Thalhimer, L. Wallenstein, and William W. Clegg.

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